

Headquarters U.S. Air Force

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Key Spouse (KS) Program



Introduction

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Hello! And, welcome to Key Spouse. This program is critical to family well-being. Before continuing with this video, please watch the introduction video by Mrs. Paula Roy on the home page.



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Historical Perspectives

- Quality of Life initiative
- Developed out of concern for AF families
- Forerunner: Navy Ombudsman Program
- AF tested, 1996-1998
- Voluntary implementation AF-Wide, 1999
 - KS Program
- AF standardized/renamed program, 2009
- Deployed AF-wide, Mar 2009

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Today we will begin with the Historical Perspectives of Key Spouse.

The idea of an organized program of Air Force spouses helping other spouses. Informally, Air Force spouses have always helped other spouses, particularly during deployment.

The number of family members is nearly equal to the number of Airmen; and the number of spouses continues to rise. The Air Force realized that they needed a more organized way to give families information and assistance.

In 1997, the United States Air Force implemented the Key Spouse Program at five high-deployment bases. Selected bases modeled the Navy's program. Although the program was not adopted Air Force-wide, many lessons were learned in the area of assisting military family members—specifically, as it related to deployments and periods of family separation. The Key Spouse Program was designed to be a tool for organizational leadership and tailored to meet the needs of individual units.



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Why the KS Program is Important

- Promotes individual, family, and unit readiness
- Establishes continuous contact with spouses/families
- Encourages peer-to-peer/Wingman support
- Links to leadership
- Provides an informal sounding board
- Strengthens leadership's support team
- Vital to building strong AF communities

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Key Spouse in an important Air Force Program. Increased OPSTEMPO demands that we outreach to families who are engaged at the home front. Frequency and length of deployments, remote tours and TDYs requires us to be vigilant to family needs. The Key Spouse Program:

- Promotes Individual, Family, and Unit Readiness
- Establishes Continuous Contact with Spouses/Families
- Encourages Peer-to-Peer/Wingman Support
- Links to Leadership
- Provides an Informal Sounding Board
- Strengthens Leadership's Support Team
- Vital to Building Strong AF Communities



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Program Benefits

- Increased awareness of installation/community resources
- Identified/resolved issues at lowest levels
 - Enhanced up/down information flow
- Prepared/supported families during separations
- Increased sense of unit support
- Improved Quality of Life among unit families
- Increased readiness and retention
- Enhanced family resiliency

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Results of the Key Spouse program include:

- Increased Awareness of Installation/Community Resources
- Identified/Resolved Issues at Lowest Levels
 - Enhanced Up/Down Information Flow
- Prepared/Supported Families during Separations
- Increased Sense of Unit Support
- Improved Quality of Life among Unit Families
- Increased Readiness and Retention
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Course Overview

- **Module I Making Connections**
- **Module II Building the Team: Roles and Responsibilities**
- **Module III Resources**
- **Module IV Responding to the Call**
- **Module V Supporting Families During Deployments**
- **Module VI Ready, Set, Go!**

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Today we will cover:

- Module I, Making Connections
- Module II, Building the Team: Roles and Responsibilities
- Module III, Resources
- Module IV, Responding to the Call
- Module V, Supporting Families during Deployments
- Model VI, Ready, Set, Go!

The next module allows you to gain a better understanding of yourself and effectively relate to others.